

enactment of my legislation. While I realize that there are some who wish to concentrate solely on the provisions of the so-called "contract with America" in the first 3½ months of the new session, I would urge all of my colleagues to join with me in moving this to a high priority status so that spring training and the regulator season are not lost to the American people.

We have the opportunity and ability to rescue the national pastime from its current dispiriting condition. Let's not allow this opportunity to pass by or be deferred.

I urge all colleagues to join in the effort.

CREDIT BUREAU REPORTING OF COURT-ORDERED CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as this historic 104th Congress convenes, I am reintroducing the Child Support Credit Bureau Reporting Act of 1995, to require all States to participate in a simplified, nationally uniform child-support credit-bureau reporting system.

I first introduced this bill in 1994. It is aimed at combatting the woefully low rate of child support payments in the United States, without creating a new Federal Government program to do it. Credit bureaus and, through them, individual lenders will know on a monthly basis whether or not parents are fulfilling this most basic obligation. With negligible Federal costs, this bill will begin to get the private sector involved in addressing those adults who don't pay their court-ordered child support.

Children are created by two people, and both of them must accept personal and financial responsibility for raising their children. In broken, or never-formed families, financial responsibility is often defined by court-ordered child support payments. Unfortunately, too many noncustodial parents fail to comply with the court orders.

A year ago, I received a letter from a constituent of mine in Warren, MI. This mother of two ran away from her husband, and moved into a shelter for abused women. She writes:

I have been working as a secretary for almost eight years now, and it still seems that there is never enough money. My ex-husband doesn't even pay the ordered \$55 per week, an amount so small it won't even buy them both new shoes or new coats. It won't pay for Little League registration * * * and if I saved every penny, it wouldn't put them half way through college. Why does he do this? Because he feels he can get away with it and I say he's right.

Unfortunately, she's not alone. The Office of Child Support Enforcement in the Department of Health and Human Services reports that of \$35 billion of cumulative court-ordered child support owed through 1992, \$27 billion remains uncollected. In 1992, nearly six million absentee parents made no child support payments at all.

This is simply wrong and my child support credit bureau reporting bill will help to change this.

Very simply, State agencies responsible for child support enforcement will report the status of all child support accounts to the Nation's

three major credit bureaus—TRW, Equifax, and Trans-Union. With this information appearing on credit reports, individual lenders will know on a monthly basis whether parents owe court-ordered child support and whether they are fulfilling this most basic obligation. After all, is a parent's obligation to pay court-ordered child support any less important than that parent's obligation to make a car payment or pay their credit card bills?

Last year, I asked the GAO to survey 16 States, credit bureaus, and some lenders regarding this proposal. I introduced my bill after receiving the favorable GAO report, entitled "Child Support Enforcement—Credit Bureau Reporting Shows Promise," on June 3, 1994. Generally, the GAO found that my proposal can increase child support collections, that it is administratively feasible, and, most importantly, it can be implemented with little cost to either State or Federal governments. In short, over time, my bill will help save money and increase court-ordered child support collections.

Mr. Speaker, we have done nearly all we can in the way of Federal statute; we already mandate tax-refund intercepts, the withholding of court-ordered support from wages, liens on property, and so on. But government cannot do this alone. The private sector must also reinforce the principle of parental responsibility. My bill will provide private-sector banks, credit card agencies, merchants, and businesses the information they should weigh when making loan decisions. Private sector lenders should attach at least as much importance to a parent's track record for paying court-ordered child support as they do to credit card balances and loan payments. And failure to pay court-ordered child support should carry grave consequences.

Mr. Speaker, if we support family values, then surely this is a sensible and necessary step. Those in the private sector—banks, credit card agencies, and businesses—should put court-ordered child support on the scale when weighing the decision to make a loan. We must send the message that both parents are responsible for supporting their children and that child support is a debt parents cannot afford to ignore.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that a copy of the bill be inserted in the RECORD at this point.

ALAN EMORY ASSUMES GRIDIRON PRESIDENCY

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the achievements of a distinguished journalist who has been covering Washington since the days of President Truman. This week, as we seek a new direction for Congress and the country, so too will a new voice guide the well known Gridiron Club. Alan S. Emory, Washington correspondent for the Watertown (New York) Daily Times, assumed the presidency of the Club January 1. He has been that newspaper's Washington correspondent since 1951.

Gridiron is an organization of 60 journalists covering the Nation's Capital. They are well recognized for their annual gala dinner and

musical spoof of politics, over which Mr. Emory will preside on March 25.

Mr. Speaker, Alan Emory has crossed many notable milestones in his career—recipient of the Thomas L. Stokes prize for conservation reporting, election to the Society of Professional Journalists, President of its Washington Professional Chapter and member of the Chapter's Hall of Fame—but he is probably most gratified at his elevation to the presidency of Gridiron. He has twice been music chairman of their spring show, a producer ten times and always one of the Club's most prolific writer of lyrics. As a member since 1976 and most recently its vice president, he will be a most capable leader.

Covering Washington politics for more than four decades, Mr. Emory is known as a journalist with the highest of standards. He can be tough on newsmakers but is as fair as they come. What public official could ask for more? And who better to be chief lampooner at the Gridiron?

Mr. Speaker, I join his fourth estate colleagues, his family, particularly his beloved wife, Nancy, and his Capitol Hill friends in congratulating Mr. Emory on his assumption of the Gridiron Club presidency and look forward to his continuing successes through the new year.

CENTRALIZED AUTOMOBILE EMISSIONS INSPECTION

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I introduce today legislation to bring a commonsense approach to implementation of the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments. My legislation is designed to accomplish three goals: First, to delay for 2 years the implementation of the enhanced vehicle inspection and maintenance program; second, to require the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] to reissue regulations for this program; and third, to provide for the redesignation of marginal and moderate ozone nonattainment areas.

This legislation is in response to a consistent trend by the EPA of regulating first and asking questions later. As far back as April 2, 1993, I contracted EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner with regard to a requirement that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania implement a centralized vehicle inspection program. While I have many concerns with the EPA's Centralized Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program as a means of actually improving air quality, my main concern is over the Agency's Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards Report which found 41 of the 98 previously designated nonattainment regions registering ozone attainment for the years 1991 through 1993. Additionally, according to available ozone air studies these regions will again reach attainment in 1994. Had it not been for the inclusion of 1988, a climatological anomaly, in the EPA's 3-year average of ozone nonattainment, regions such as Harrisburg and Lancaster, PA, would never have been caught in this bureaucratic web of regulations. In my opinion, the EPA is looking for a problem to regulate which does not exist.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fundamental problem with our Nation's environmental laws and one reason why Americans overwhelmingly voted for reform of our environmental laws through their endorsement of the Contract with America. Two key provisions in the Republican reform package are cost benefit analysis and regulatory reform. We have seen with the superfund, clean water, pesticide, and clean air regulations a lack of consideration for cost in relation to benefit. For example, as I mentioned above Harrisburg and Lancaster, PA, have met national ambient air quality standards for 3 consecutive years. Nevertheless, these regions must comply with burdensome regulatory requirements to centralize automobile emissions inspections costing thousands of jobs across the Nation and adding Government cost and bureaucracy to the lives of many Americans. My bill is designed to ease the regulatory requirements of the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments and to direct the EPA to reassess its determination with respect to the centralized program and issue new regulations governing the program.

Mr. Speaker, we all support sensible environmental laws and cherish the natural and wonderful resources of this Earth. However, when the Government spends billions of taxpayer dollars on meaningless regulations which do little to improve the health of citizens we must take the necessary action to reform these laws. I ask my colleagues to mark this historic first day of the 104th Congress by cosponsoring this legislation and begin the process of regulatory reform.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOBBYING DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1995

HON. JOHN BRYANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, a bill to reform the lobby disclosure laws and to ban lobbyists' gifts to Members of Congress.

This bill is identical to the legislation that the House of Representatives passed on September 29, 1994, by a vote of 306 to 122.

The American people need to know whether this Congress will put an end to the perception that the Congress is captivated by special interests who shower Members with gifts to win their favor.

This bill would permanently bar lobbyists from gaining access to Members of Congress by picking up their tabs for meals and entertainment and it would end subsidies for what are essentially private vacation trips.

It would also ensure that our constituents know how much is being spent to influence the decisions that we are sent here to make on their behalf by closing loopholes in existing lobby disclosure laws.

As my colleagues know, Republicans sought to block consideration of this bill last year and succeeded in killing it with a filibuster in the Senate.

But the issue of how private interests seek to influence this body can not be ignored.

I urge the Congress to pass this legislation and help to restore the confidence of the American people in this institution.

LEGISLATION PERMITTING EX- PORT OF ALASKA'S NORTH SLOPE CRUDE OIL

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise to join my colleagues, Mr. THOMAS and Mr. DOOLEY, in introducing H.R. 70, legislation to permit the export of Alaska's North Slope crude oil.

For too long, the State of Alaska has been denied the opportunity to export this valuable resource. I look forward to working with the administration to move this bipartisan legislation to create jobs, to preserve a vital element of our domestic merchant marine, to raise State and Federal revenues, and to spur domestic energy production.

To put this proposed legislation in perspective, I think it would be helpful to explain the origins of current law. The export restrictions were first enacted in 1973 during the Arab-Israeli war and the first Arab oil boycott. Following the second major oil shock in 1979, the restrictions were further tightened, effectively imposing a ban on exports. Much has changed since then.

Over half of our imports now come from the Western Hemisphere and Europe. We are less dependent on the Middle East and Africa, but have shifted our purchases from Iran, Iraq, and Libya to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Today, U.S. oil supplies are ample and are more diversified. In addition, international sharing agreements are in place and the United States has filled a Strategic Petroleum Reserve with 600 million barrels of crude oil. In short, our Nation is not as vulnerable to the supply threats that motivated Congress to act in the 1970's.

While we have taken the steps necessary to reduce our vulnerability to others, we have not done enough to encourage domestic energy production. In fact, production on the North Slope has now entered a period of decline. In California, small independent producers have been forced to abandon wells or defer further investments. By precluding the market from operating normally, the export ban has had the unintended effect of discouraging further energy production. This legislation is designed to change that situation.

This proposed legislation would require the use of U.S.-flag vessels. Prior proposals would have permitted exports on foreign-flag vessels. Those bills never prospered, in part because they were opposed by the independent U.S.-flag tanker fleet that was built at considerable expense to move the crude oil to market. We have now forged common ground with the maritime industry. Our bill will help preserve this vital element of our merchant marine.

In June 1994, the Department of Energy issued a comprehensive report that concluded Alaskan oil exports would boost production in Alaska and California by 100,000 to 110,000 barrels per day by the end of the century. The sooner we change current law, the sooner we can spur additional energy production and create jobs on the west coast and in Alaska. In fact, Energy Secretary, Hazel O'Leary is reported as saying in today's Journal of Commerce, which I would like to submit for the RECORD, "I have been strongly in favor of lift-

ing that ban since I have been back in Government. You will see us carrying the initiative and supporting the lifting of the ban." I look forward to working with Secretary O'Leary and administration toward that end.

Mr. Speaker, as we enter a new era in the House, we have an opportunity to enact bipartisan legislation that will create jobs, help preserve our merchant marine, spur energy production, and raise State and Federal revenues. I urge my colleagues to work with me to enact this vital legislation as quickly as possible to achieve these objectives and to enhance our energy security.

[From the Journal of Commerce, Jan. 4, 1995]

O'LEARY PLANS PUSH TO END EXPORT BAN ON ALASKAN OIL

WASHINGTON.—U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary said she plans to push this year to repeal the ban on exports of Alaskan North Slope oil.

Mrs. O'Leary also said she believed a broad coalition supporting the ban's repeal was forming late in the last congressional session.

"I have been strongly in favor of lifting that ban since I have been back in government," Mrs. O'Leary said. "You will see us carrying the initiative and supporting the lifting of the ban" in 1995, she said.

Deputy Energy Secretary Bill White has said the department will work on legislation to lift the 20-year-old law that keeps Alaskan North Slope oil from Pacific Rim markets.

Efforts by Alaska's congressional delegation to repeal the ban died late in the last session.

President Clinton also has indicated he supports the concept of repealing the ban, but that the administration was weighing the issue.

According to an Energy Department study, allowing the oil exports would generate jobs and revenue.

But some West Coast lawmakers opposed lifting the ban, partly fearing higher gasoline prices as less Alaskan oil would move to domestic ports.

Labor groups also have opposed lifting the ban because the oil would no longer be forced onto U.S.-flagged vessels, but could be carried on international vessels to overseas ports.

There have been proposals to require that the exported oil still be carried on U.S.-flagged vessels, but that could raise international trade problems, U.S. officials have said.

A QUESTION OF MURDER

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to call my colleagues' attention to a recent commentary from the News Reporter of San Marcos in the 51st District of California.

My constituent, D.J. Skinner Ross of San Marcos, raises some interesting questions about the recent tragic double murder of the Smith children in South Carolina. I urge my colleagues to read "A Question of Murder," as it offers a unique perspective on this sad case and on the larger issue of ethics in our society.